

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
MC ALLEN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	CASE NO: 7:12-CR-1136-3
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	CRIMINAL
	)	
vs.	)	McAllen, Texas
	)	
JULIO ARMANDO DAVILA,	)	Monday, December 24, 2012
	)	( 9:20 a.m. to 9:32 a.m.)
Defendant.	)	(10:05 a.m. to 10:35 a.m.)

---

ARRAIGNMENT AND DETENTION HEARING

BEFORE THE HONORABLE PETER E. ORMSBY,  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

<u>Appearances:</u>	See next page
Court Interpreter:	Not used
Court Recorder:	Rick Rodriguez
Transcribed By:	Exceptional Reporting Services, Inc. P.O. Box 18668 Corpus Christi, Texas 78480-8668 361 949-2988

**THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN FURNISHED AT PUBLIC  
EXPENSE UNDER THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT AND MAY  
BE USED ONLY AS AUTHORIZED BY COURT ORDER.  
UNAUTHORIZED REPRODUCTION WILL RESULT IN AN  
ASSESSMENT AGAINST COUNSEL FOR THE COST OF AN  
ORIGINAL AND ONE COPY AT THE OFFICIAL RATE.  
General Order 94-15, United States District Court,  
Southern District of Texas.**

Proceedings recorded by electronic sound recording;  
transcript produced by transcription service.

**APPEARANCES FOR:**

**Plaintiff:** GRADY LEUPOLD, ESQ.  
Assistant United States Attorney  
1701 W. Business Hwy. 83  
Suite 600  
McAllen, Texas 78501

**Defendant:** FRANCISCO J. RODRIGUEZ, ESQ.  
1111 W. Nolana  
McAllen, Texas 78504

## INDEX

GOVERNMENT'S WITNESS      DIRECT      CROSS      REDIRECT      RECROSS

JEAN PAUL RANUE      14      18/24

ARGUMENT

BY MR. RODRIGUEZ      26

BY MR. LEUPOLD      27

RULING OF COURT      29

1           McAllen, Texas; Monday, December 24, 2012; 9:20 a.m.

2   (Call to Order)

3           **THE COURT:** Okay. We're going to call first a case  
4 here on Indictment, Number M-12-1136, *United States of America*  
5 *versus Julio Armando Davila*.

6           **MR. LEUPOLD:** United States present and ready, your  
7 Honor.

8           **THE COURT:** Please come forth, sir.

9           **MR. RODRIGUEZ:** Francisco Rodriguez, your Honor, for  
10 the defendant.

11           **THE COURT:** Okay. Good morning.

12           All right. In Mr. Davila's case, he was named in an  
13 indictment that was filed so there are two things we need to  
14 address in his case. One is the arraignment and then also the  
15 bond hearing. As far as the arraignment, Mr. Rodriguez, have  
16 you been able to go over the indictment with him and --

17           **MR. RODRIGUEZ:** I have, your Honor.

18           **THE COURT:** Okay. And do you believe he's competent  
19 at this time?

20           **MR. RODRIGUEZ:** I believe he is competent, your  
21 Honor.

22           **THE COURT:** And do you expect he'll wish to enter a  
23 plea of not guilty at this time?

24           **MR. RODRIGUEZ:** Yes, your Honor. We're going to  
25 plead not guilty and request a jury trial --

1           **THE COURT:** Okay.

2           **MR. RODRIGUEZ:** -- and also pretrial dates.

3           **THE COURT:** Okay. And do you anticipate that he'll  
4 wish to have the indictment read or to waive that?

5           **MR. RODRIGUEZ:** No, your Honor. We're going to go  
6 ahead and waive the reading of the indictment.

7           **THE COURT:** Okay. And Mr. Davila, I do need to ask  
8 you questions under oath for your arraignment.

9           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir.

10          **THE COURT:** Please raise your right hand and the  
11 clerk will place you under oath.

12          **(Defendant sworn)**

13          **THE COURT:** Okay. And, sir, just to confirm we have  
14 your name correctly in the indictment, it is Julio Armando  
15 Davila. Is that right?

16          **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir.

17          **THE COURT:** And, sir, I also just want to confirm  
18 what Mr. Rodriguez has indicated and that is that you have been  
19 able to review the indictment with your attorney and discuss  
20 the charge with your attorney. Is that correct?

21          **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir.

22          **THE COURT:** And I also want to be sure that after  
23 doing that that you are able to understand the nature of the  
24 charge that's being alleged and understand the maximum  
25 penalties that could be imposed as to that. Do you understand

1 those things, sir?

2 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir.

3 **THE COURT:** And Mr. Rodriguez has indicated you wish  
4 to waive the reading of the indictment. All that means is that  
5 we won't read it out loud this morning, and is that correct,  
6 that you want to waive that?

7 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir.

8 **THE COURT:** And he's also indicated you intend to  
9 plead not guilty at this time to the charge being alleged in  
10 the indictment. I just need to have you announce your plea at  
11 this point, and as to the charge in the indictment in your case  
12 how do you wish to plead, guilty or not guilty?

13 **THE DEFENDANT:** Not guilty.

14 **THE COURT:** And I do find Mr. Davila is competent  
15 based on the representation of counsel for purposes of the  
16 arraignment here today. He's entered a plea of not guilty at  
17 this time to the charge in the indictment.

18 His case is assigned to Judge Crane. The final  
19 pretrial conference is set for January -- excuse me, February  
20 the 1st at 9:00 o'clock. The jury selection will be  
21 February 5th at 9:30. The deadline for motions will be January  
22 the 7th. The Government's responses will be due January 25th  
23 and the deadline for motions for continuance will be  
24 January 18th.

25 So those dates will control further proceedings in

1 Mr. Davila's case and your attorney will be able to assist you  
2 in addressing your case on that schedule or otherwise helping  
3 you to resolve this.

4 We also need to address the issue of bond. In this  
5 case, based on the nature of the charge that's being alleged  
6 under federal law there is a presumption against bond. It is a  
7 rebuttable presumption but it shifts the burden of moving  
8 forward to the defendant. I'm going to be taking notice of the  
9 factual information in the pretrial services report except to  
10 the extent it's clarified or corrected in connection with the  
11 hearing.

12 And at this time, Mr. Rodriguez, is there evidence or  
13 argument you wish to present on the issue of bond?

14 **MR. RODRIGUEZ:** Yes, your Honor. One of the things  
15 that Mr. Davila indicates to me at least on the presentence --  
16 or the report is that his criminal history. There are some --  
17 at least one charge, maybe more, that did not belong to him.

18 Actually, he's not the individual that he was charged  
19 with. His dad does have a similar name and he believes that  
20 some of those charges were actually his father's charges.  
21 Additionally, he does have a --

22 **THE COURT:** And is that some of those -- the older  
23 charges or which ones are you talking about?

24 **MR. RODRIGUEZ:** Okay. The one dated April the 4th,  
25 1989, unlawfully carrying a weapon. That was dismissed,

1 according to his recollection. The one on September 18th,  
2 1992, aggravated assault on a peace officer, we believe that  
3 that's actually his dad. He was never charged with an  
4 aggravated assault on a peace officer, from his recollection.

5 The -- additionally, there is a pending aggravated  
6 assault with a deadly weapon. That was filed on August the  
7 19th of this year. He has -- I represent him on the state --  
8 that's a state charge, your Honor.

9 **THE COURT:** Right.

10 **MR. RODRIGUEZ:** -- and he has made all the  
11 appearances voluntarily; and in this particular case, he also  
12 turned himself in.

13 Additionally, he has no ties to Mexico. All his  
14 family resides -- the daughters and his ex-wife, of course, and  
15 his sons reside here in the Valley for many, many, many years.

16 So he does have some essential ties to the community  
17 and I would, on his behalf, ask that the Court set a -- maybe  
18 \$100,000 surety bond with \$10,000 cash deposit which his ex-  
19 wife, who he has good relationships with or a good relation, is  
20 willing to post, and I believe that she has a business -- that  
21 she would entertain the -- hiring him or having him work with  
22 her and he can assist -- or she can assist in supervising him.

23 **THE COURT:** Okay. Thank you. And as far as the  
24 Government's position on bond as to Mr. Davila, Mr. Leupold?

25 **MR. LEUPOLD:** Your Honor, the Government recommends



1 detention and agrees with the recommendation made in the  
2 Pretrial Services Report based primarily upon the rebuttable  
3 presumption which the Government believes has not been rebutted  
4 in light of the defendant's criminal history and the  
5 Government's position is supported by not only the current  
6 charge but also those previous convictions.

7           So to the extent that the defendant contests those  
8 convictions, the Government does believe that they are the  
9 defendant's convictions and relies upon those as a basis of its  
10 opinion.

11           The Government also notes the defendant's previous  
12 drug use and the fact that while he doesn't have any self-  
13 reported ties, his mother appears to be a lawful permanent  
14 resident and does believe that the seriousness of the current  
15 offense in tandem with the seriousness of the charged offense  
16 at the state does provide an incentive with the -- to the  
17 defendant to flee the jurisdiction and, as such, does believe  
18 there are no conditions or combination of conditions that can  
19 either reasonably assure his presence at future court  
20 proceedings and/or ensure the welfare of the community. Thank  
21 you, your Honor.

22           **THE COURT:** And, Mr. Leupold, one of the factors is  
23 the weight of the evidence and I see what the indictment says  
24 as far as the nature of the charge but I'm not aware of the --  
25 some of the circumstances alleged as to the first two

1 co-defendants but I'm not sure exactly -- well, I think I know  
2 how this may allegedly relate to the first three counts but I'm  
3 not certain about that and I'm also not really aware of the  
4 circumstances alleged in Count Four as to Mr. Davila. Did you  
5 want to make any kind of proffer about that or --

6 **MR. LEUPOLD:** Unfortunately, your Honor, the  
7 Government was not prepared to provide either a proffer or  
8 additional evidence today. But should the Court require that  
9 for its decision, I can ensure that that's available to the  
10 Court at the next available setting.

11 **THE COURT:** Okay. And as to the -- these prior  
12 charges so that the two or the ones that are in dispute -- 1989  
13 and 1992. Is that correct, Mr. Rodriguez?

14 **(Defendant confers with counsel)**

15 **MR. RODRIGUEZ:** Excuse me, Judge. I'm sorry. He was  
16 talking to me.

17 **THE COURT:** I'm just -- and I'm just trying to make  
18 sure I had clear what the two charges that were being  
19 questioned as far as his record and I understood you to say the  
20 1989 charge for unlawfully carrying a weapon and the 1992  
21 charge for aggravated assault on a peace officer.

22 **MR. RODRIGUEZ:** That's correct, your Honor. Yeah,  
23 Mr. Davila says that he has never been convicted of those  
24 charges.

25 **THE DEFENDANT:** On those charges, the other charge

1 applies to me. I was never convicted on that other charge,  
2 Judge.

3 **THE COURT:** So the 1989 one that was you but it was  
4 dismissed is what you're remembering, Mr. Davila. Is that  
5 right?

6 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir.

7 **THE COURT:** Okay.

8 **MR. RODRIGUEZ:** And in fact, your Honor, I believe  
9 that the State of Texas had issued him a concealed weapons  
10 license and they would not have done so with a -- with that  
11 prior criminal history, I don't believe.

12 **THE COURT:** Right, if he disclosed it then, yeah. Or  
13 they should have done a records check also. So, right and that  
14 would be -- okay. And --

15 **MR. LEUPOLD:** Your Honor, I can provide the Court  
16 with a proffer and actually do have a witness available to  
17 provide the Court with additional evidence on the strength of  
18 the evidence.

19 But the proffer is that the role of the defendant in  
20 the indicted offense was that he, in tandem with four co-  
21 conspirators, planned to steal a load of marijuana of a  
22 quantity of approximately 2,000 kilograms that occurred or was  
23 planned to occur the same night that the federal agent was shot  
24 by co-defendants. So that's the Government's proffer; and if  
25 the Court requires additional evidence, I do have an agent

1 available.

2           **THE COURT:** So that's what the Government is alleging  
3 and do you have anything as far as why you all believe that  
4 Mr. Davila was involved in this or --

5           **MR. LEUPOLD:** I would have to put the agent on to  
6 provide, I think, more evidence, your Honor.

7           **THE COURT:** Okay. I'll leave that up to you as far  
8 as, Mr. Leupold, if you want to --

9           **(Defendant confers with counsel)**

10           **MR. LEUPOLD:** Yeah, I think it's important. I --

11           **THE COURT:** Okay. We'll go ahead and --

12           **MR. LEUPOLD:** -- I haven't had an opportunity to  
13 speak to Defense counsel but I believe that detention is very  
14 much contested at this point.

15           **THE COURT:** In light of that -- well, let's go ahead  
16 and we'll hear the Government's witness and, Mr. Davila, you  
17 can have a seat at counsel table with your attorney and we'll  
18 take that up.

19           **(Pause)**

20           **MR. LEUPOLD:** Your Honor, is there a chance that we  
21 could reset this matter for later in the docket? Apparently,  
22 there are some facts associated with this case that I was not  
23 made aware of. So I'd like --

24           **THE COURT:** All right.

25           **MR. LEUPOLD:** -- just a few more moments, your Honor.

1           **THE COURT:** Sure. Let's just go ahead and recall --  
2 and, Mr. Davila, you can go ahead and have a seat over here in  
3 the -- we'll just leave you with the marshals for a few minutes  
4 and we'll address the other cases here and then come back to  
5 this. If we need to, we can take a recess at the end there to  
6 give you a little additional time on that.

7           **(Court attends other matters from 9:32 a.m. to 10:05 a.m.)**

8           **THE COURT:** Okay. And going back to Mr. Davila's  
9 case, Criminal Number M-12-1136, *United States versus Julio*  
10 *Armando Davila*, and --

11           **MR. LEUPOLD:** The United States is again present and  
12 ready, your Honor.

13           **THE COURT:** Do you need a -- need for us to take a  
14 recess or --

15           **MR. LEUPOLD:** No. Your Honor, the Government is  
16 ready to proceed and the Government would like to provide the  
17 Court with evidence.

18           **THE COURT:** Okay. A witness or --

19           **MR. LEUPOLD:** So the Government will call Special  
20 Agent Ranue to the stand.

21           **THE COURT:** Okay.

22           **THE CLERK:** Please raise your right hand.

23           **JEAN PAUL RANUE, GOVERNMENT'S WITNESS, SWORN**

24           //

25           //

1 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

2 **BY MR. LEUPOLD:**

3 Q Sir, please state your full name for the record.

4 A Jean Paul Ranue.

5 Q How are you employed, sir?

6 A Special Agent with the United States Homeland Security  
7 Investigations in McAllen, Texas.

8 Q Are you familiar with the indictment that has been  
9 returned against a Julio Armando Davila?

10 A I am.

11 Q Are you the case agent assigned to the investigation that  
12 ultimately gave rise to the indictment?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q Is the individual that is the subject of your  
15 investigation and of the indictment present in the courtroom  
16 today?

17 A He is.

18 Q Could you describe his location in the courtroom as well  
19 as an article of clothing that he's wearing?

20 A He's sitting to my right wearing a white collared shirt.

21 **MR. LEUPOLD:** Your Honor, please let the record  
22 reflect the witness has identified the defendant.

23 **THE COURT:** Okay.

24 **MR. RODRIGUEZ:** No objection.

25 //

1 **BY MR. LEUPOLD:**

2 Q So I understand that the defendant was True Billed by the  
3 grand jury for conspiring to commit an offense on July 3rd,  
4 2012. Is that consistent with your investigation?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q Can you please briefly describe for the Court the nature  
7 of the transaction that gave rise to the criminal count in this  
8 case against the defendant?

9 A In approximately January of 2011, Homeland Security  
10 Investigations began a narcotics investigation. At a certain  
11 point, the defendant was approached by law enforcement and his  
12 cooperation was gained by the United States Government.

13 On July 2nd, we received information from this  
14 individual about a narcotics shipment in Hargill, Texas.  
15 During the subsequent surveillance, Special Agent Kelton  
16 Harrison was shot in Hargill, Texas, on the morning of July the  
17 3rd. Subsequent to that shooting, we learned that the  
18 defendant, as well as four other individuals, were planning to  
19 steal the load of narcotics in Hargill, Texas, that agents were  
20 out there surveilling that evening.

21 Q And, sir, if you could, just briefly summarize for the  
22 Court what evidence have you developed through the course of  
23 your investigation to support the allegation that the defendant  
24 planned the intended theft of the load on or about July 3rd?

25 A We have the defendant's statements as well as other

1 individuals' cooperating statements as well as the facts that  
2 led up to the shooting as well as evidence that we gathered  
3 subsequent to the shooting.

4 Q Have you had an opportunity to speak with any of the co-  
5 defendants in this case?

6 A I have. Yes, sir.

7 Q And do any of those co-defendants implicate the defendant  
8 in the offense?

9 A They do.

10 Q Did the -- you mentioned previously that the defendant  
11 provided a statement. Did you initially provide the defendant  
12 with his Miranda Warnings before obtaining that statement?

13 A I'm not sure. I wasn't there present for that particular  
14 statement. As you know, the defendant did provide a statement  
15 regarding events of July the 3rd as well as the planning of the  
16 theft of narcotics in Hargill.

17 Q And to the best of your knowledge or belief that was after  
18 he had waived his rights and agreed to provide a knowing and  
19 voluntarily statement to agents?

20 A Correct. Yes, sir. Correct.

21 Q What, if anything, did the defendant state about his  
22 historical participation in the smuggling of narcotics?

23 A Based on statements by the defendant as well as other  
24 individuals, we know the defendant was involved as well as  
25 other individuals in the storage, transportation, selling of



1 narcotics for at least a year prior to the shooting on  
2 July 3rd.

3 Q Was the defendant able and -- based on the information  
4 that the defendant provided as well as that of co-defendants,  
5 was your investigation able to lead you to an opinion as to the  
6 -- I guess, the overall quantity of drugs that the defendant  
7 has smuggled over that period of time?

8 A I'd be purely speculating as far as the overall amount.

9 Q Let me ask it differently. What was the total quantity of  
10 drugs seized in this case?

11 A In this case to date, we've seized approximately 3,000  
12 pounds of marijuana, 30 kilos of cocaine.

13 Q Did the defendant and/or other co-defendants provide  
14 agents with an indication as to how frequently they were moving  
15 or ripping (phonetic) loads over that period of time?

16 A I don't have a frequency. It was provided by other co-  
17 defendants that the defendant was involved in stealing  
18 narcotics frequently. But I don't have a time.

19 Q And did the investigation develop information that would  
20 lead you to believe that the size of the loads were consistent  
21 with the quantity of drugs that have been seized during the  
22 course of your investigation?

23 A Correct. Yes, sir.

24 **MR. LEUPOLD:** Pass the witness, your Honor.

25 **THE COURT:** Okay. Mr. Rodriguez?

1 **CROSS EXAMINATION**

2 **BY MR. RODRIGUEZ:**

3 Q When did you first meet Mr. Davila?

4 A First meet him?

5 Q Correct.

6 A May of last year, approximately.

7 Q And you said that he had been cooperating with you?

8 A Correct.

9 Q Were you outside when the Assistant U.S. Attorney that you  
10 work with said that Mr. Davila would not be a flight risk?

11 Were you out there? Did you hear him say that?

12 A Right out here in the hall?

13 Q Sure.

14 **MR. LEUPOLD:** Just a -- objection. Relevance, your  
15 Honor.

16 **MR. RODRIGUEZ:** I'm talking about flight risk, your  
17 Honor, which is one of the factors that goes into a bond,  
18 whether he would appear.

19 **MR. LEUPOLD:** And he's seeking a legal conclusion  
20 through a witness and the Government objects.

21 **MR. RODRIGUEZ:** No, it was a conversation that was  
22 outside in his presence.

23 **THE COURT:** Right, but -- and I understand what  
24 you're getting at, Mr. Rodriguez, but even if Mr. Leonard said  
25 that or whoever said that, I'm the one that would have to

1 determine based on the, you know, the circumstances. So if he  
2 thinks that he's not a flight risk then, you know, that's fine.  
3 But, ultimately, I've got to decide so --

4 **MR. RODRIGUEZ:** I understand that, Judge. But he's a  
5 representative of the U.S. Government who uttered that  
6 Mr. Davila was not a flight risk. Here in court, they're  
7 taking the opposite --

8 **THE COURT:** If you're representing that somebody said  
9 out -- said that, Mr. Rodriguez, I'll accept that; and we don't  
10 need to have the witness, you know, kind of repeat it. So  
11 that's fine.

12 **BY MR. RODRIGUEZ:**

13 Q Now, are you telling the Court -- and I want to be very  
14 clear regarding this -- are you telling the Court that  
15 Mr. Davila had anything directly to do with the shooting of the  
16 government agent?

17 A You'll have to be more specific on your question, please.

18 Q Do you think Mr. Davila set up the government agent to be  
19 shot, for example?

20 A Indirectly or directly?

21 Q Directly.

22 A Directly, I don't know if that was his intention. I can't  
23 speculate on his mindset.

24 Q Well, as a government agent, you do know that every time  
25 there is some drugs, dealings -- drug deals going down or

1 whatever, there's always a risk that a government agent or the  
2 defendant is going to get shot. You understand that, right?

3 A I personally, yes, sir. I can't speak for the other  
4 agents.

5 Q Right. Now, how was it that you came upon Hargill, Texas?  
6 What information did you have that led the agents to go out  
7 there regarding some drug deal going down?

8 A We received information from the defendant regarding the  
9 drug deal -- proposed drug deal.

10 Q Okay. You mentioned defendant, co-defendants. Okay.  
11 Specifically, who are you referring to?

12 A Mr. Davila.

13 Q Okay. So Mr. Davila was the one who called you?

14 A Correct.

15 Q And but for him calling the government agents, you all  
16 would not be out there in Hargill?

17 A Correct.

18 Q And the information that was supposedly given to you was  
19 that there was some sort of drug deal going down. Is that  
20 correct?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q And you did what you have done in previous occasions when  
23 you -- when you mentioned that he had cooperated with you on  
24 prior occasions. Is that correct?

25 A I don't understand your question.

1 Q Well, I thought you said that he cooperated with the  
2 government on prior occasions.

3 A He did. However, on July 3rd that was a new instance  
4 between us. I had never done that type of investigation with  
5 his information. So that would be the first instance that I  
6 did that type of investigation with his information.

7 Q Okay. Well, regarding the information that he had given  
8 you on prior occasions --

9 A Uh-huh.

10 Q -- have that resulted in any drug seizures?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q So when you're saying that in this investigation that you  
13 have seized -- what did you say, 3,000 pounds of marijuana?

14 A Approximately. Approximately.

15 Q Pounds or kilograms?

16 A It would be pounds.

17 Q Okay. And you said also cocaine?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q And so this -- the drugs that you seized was as a result  
20 of some cooperation that you got from Mr. Davila?

21 A No. A portion of that, yes. Excuse me.

22 Q Okay. And so a portion -- do you know approximately how  
23 much?

24 A Six hundred pounds.

25 Q Six hundred pounds.

1 A Of marijuana.

2 Q Okay. Now, who are the other co-defendants that you claim  
3 have implicated Mr. Davila?

4 A The other co-defendants who have implicated him?

5 Q Yes.

6 A Was that your question?

7 Q Yes. You said you talked to two co-defendants that  
8 implicated Mr. Davila. Who are they?

9 A I don't know if I talked to two but there's other co-  
10 defendants that implicated him. His former girlfriend/fiancé  
11 implicated him.

12 Q Aida Palacios?

13 A Correct. Aida Palacios. Yes, sir.

14 Q Okay. She's not a co-defendant in the indictment, is she?

15 A No, sir. She's not on this current indictment. My  
16 understanding is she will be indicted.

17 Q Okay. Well, let me -- let me try to, I guess -- when you  
18 say co-defendants --

19 A Correct.

20 Q -- you're talking about suspects or people who have  
21 actually been indicted this case.

22 A Not people that have been indicted in this case. It would  
23 be individuals under investigation in the broader  
24 investigation. I apologize if there was a misunderstanding.

25 Q Okay. Just so we can be -- co-defendants -- when you said

1 "co-defendants," you're talking about people who have not been  
2 arrested yet?

3 A Correct.

4 Q And one of them is Aida Palacios?

5 A Correct.

6 Q Now, where was Julio when the agent was shot?

7 A I'm not sure.

8 Q Did you see him anywhere? Did any agent report it that he  
9 was out there?

10 A No. Not to my knowledge.

11 Q Did -- as a result of you being out at or the agents being  
12 out in Hargill for the -- for which Mr. Davila is indicted, the  
13 1,000 kilograms of marijuana, correct?

14 A Correct. Yes, sir.

15 Q Was there any marijuana that was actually seized on July  
16 this year?

17 A No. There was not.

18 **MR. RODRIGUEZ:** Pass the witness, your Honor.

19 **THE COURT:** Okay.

20 **MR. LEUPOLD:** I have nothing further, your Honor.

21 **THE COURT:** And -- okay. And just to make sure I  
22 understood, Special Agent Ranue, you're saying that Mr. Davila  
23 himself indicated that in connection with that night that these  
24 events happened -- that, I guess, in connection with the  
25 marijuana that you were all looking for that he intended with

1 others to, I guess, take that from someone else or -- I'm not  
2 sure I understood what all that was --

3 **THE WITNESS:** Yes, Judge. Based on Mr. Davila's  
4 statements, as well as the statements of Aida, these  
5 individuals were planning to steal that load of narcotics on  
6 July the 2nd or 3rd.

7 **THE COURT:** Okay. And I guess maybe we don't need to  
8 get into this but I'm just confused as to -- so on the one  
9 hand, he sends you guys out there or sent -- gives you all  
10 information but on the other hand he was planning to take the  
11 marijuana himself. I'm missing something there about how that  
12 was supposed to work.

13 **THE WITNESS:** My understanding, Judge, is HSI special  
14 agents were called after these individuals believed the  
15 marijuana had already been stolen. That's my understanding as  
16 to why there were two different plans.

17 **THE COURT:** Oh, okay. All right. Anyway, was there  
18 anything else for the witness?

19 **MR. RODRIGUEZ:** Yes, your Honor.

20 **FURTHER CROSS EXAMINATION**

21 **BY MR. RODRIGUEZ:**

22 Q That night, how many times did you talk to Mr. Davila that  
23 night?

24 A That evening? On the 2nd or the 3rd? Which one?

25 Q The 3rd. The 2nd and through the 3rd.



1 A I believe I received two phone calls from him at  
2 approximately midnight on July 2nd. I then spoke to him one  
3 more time at approximately 1:30, 2:00 a.m., on July the 3rd.  
4 Then I spoke to him again on July the 3rd at approximately 5:00  
5 a.m., 6:00 a.m.

6 Q Okay. Around four or five times, correct?

7 A Approximately. Yes, sir.

8 Q Okay. Now, when was the first time that he called that  
9 you got information regarding the drug deal in Hargill?

10 A The 2nd around midnight. So it would have been right on  
11 the line between the 2nd and the 3rd.

12 Q Okay. And what time was the agent shot?

13 A Approximately 3:00 a.m., July 3rd.

14 Q Okay. So Julio calls you before anything happens to tell  
15 you about the deal. Then an hour, two hours later when you all  
16 show up over there or the agent shows up, that's when the agent  
17 got shot? Is that correct?

18 A Correct. Yes, sir.

19 Q But you're saying that, I guess, the plan was that Julio  
20 and others were going to steal the load.

21 A Correct.

22 Q But yet they're calling you to go out there --

23 A Correct.

24 Q -- and subsequent to that, the agent gets shot.

25 A Correct.

1 Q And you don't find that strange?

2 A I find it very strange.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Pass the witness, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else?

5 MR. LEUPOLD: Briefly, your Honor. I guess --

6 THE COURT: Okay. I mean, right. We don't need to  
7 sort all this out since we're just deciding bond here but,  
8 anyway, you can do whatever you'd like. That's fine.

9 (Laughter)

10 MR. LEUPOLD: Nothing further, your Honor. Thank  
11 you.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, sir.

13 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

14 THE COURT: Okay. As far as -- did you wish to add  
15 anything else, Mr. Rodriguez, or any other argument on the  
16 issue of bond?

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: The only -- well, there are some  
18 things, your Honor. Considering the totality of the  
19 circumstances -- and I'm talking about the factors that are  
20 required by the Court to consider in setting bond, I would urge  
21 to the Court that Mr. Davila, based on some of the testimony,  
22 is that he's not a flight risk.

23 Some of the information that has been made available  
24 to the Court through testimony, the proffers and through the  
25 Pretrial Officer's Report all indicate that he has lots of

1 essential ties to the community. He has no ties to Mexico.

2 He has been cooperating to the extent that -- to some  
3 extent with the Government. He's got no reason to flee. He  
4 turned himself in. He has made all prior court appearances  
5 with -- in state court involving the aggravated assault,  
6 involving Ms. Aida Palacios, who the Court now knows is one of  
7 the -- a co-defendant or someone to be indicted. And I don't  
8 seriously believe that the Government themselves believe that  
9 Mr. Davila is a flight risk, your Honor.

10 So for all those reasons, I would urge the Court to  
11 set some sort of bond. The family has already indicated they  
12 have 10 percent or \$10,000 to post. And we have Ms. Davila  
13 here and their sons. We would proffer their testimony that she  
14 has a place of employment. She has agreed to take him over or  
15 help with the supervision. He can stay there. That's all in  
16 the report. And so for all those reasons, I believe that a  
17 bond would be appropriate in this case.

18 **THE COURT:** Okay. Thank you. Mr. Leupold, did you  
19 wish to add anything or --

20 **MR. LEUPOLD:** I do, your Honor. I do concede and  
21 acknowledge that this is primarily a dangerousness case. As  
22 the Court is well aware, in the Bail Reform Act, the type of  
23 crime that the grand jury has True Billed in this case against  
24 the defendant is the very type of case that entitles the  
25 Government to a hearing.

1           And the Government would suggest that the very  
2 dangerousness that the Government believes is a concern  
3 regarding the defendant does satisfy the nexus issue with  
4 regards to the underlying offense.

5           In other words, in this case the Court needs to  
6 determine, even if the defendant rebuts its presumption,  
7 whether or not there's clear and convincing evidence that the  
8 defendant would remain a danger to the community. And the  
9 Government would suggest here that based upon the defendant's  
10 criminal history as well as the evidence the Government  
11 elicited from the case agent, there is a wealth of evidence to  
12 suggest that the defendant has been engaged in the long-term  
13 smuggling of narcotics and particularly the violent smuggling  
14 of narcotics that ultimately, in this instance, resulted in the  
15 very grave injury to a federal agent who got caught in the  
16 crossfire of the defendant's transaction, albeit confusing  
17 transaction, gone awry.

18           The Government would also suggest here that the  
19 strength of the evidence should be considered in the  
20 Government's favor given that this is an indictment and that  
21 this case has been True Billed by the grand jury based upon a  
22 consideration of the evidence presented to it.

23           So based upon the strength of the evidence, the  
24 criminal history, the nature of this offense, the quantity of  
25 the drugs involved, the Government does believe that detention

1 is appropriate to ensure the safety and welfare of the  
2 community. Thank you.

3           **THE COURT:** Okay. Again, I'm required to apply the  
4 factors under federal law in determining bond; and on that, the  
5 first factor is the nature and seriousness of the alleged  
6 offense. In this case, there's a serious drug trafficking  
7 charge being alleged against Mr. Davila. He's not alleged in  
8 the indictment to have, you know, participated with or caused  
9 the shooting of the agent actually. I mean, that may or may  
10 not be, I guess, a theory as the case goes forward. But at  
11 least I'm just looking at what the charge is in the indictment.  
12 So there's, not taking that part of this into account, the fact  
13 that an agent was shot here since he's not being charged  
14 related to that at this point, and I know -- I have no  
15 knowledge that he would be at any point.

16           So but there is a very serious charge alleged -- that  
17 allegedly involves conspiracy to possess with the intent to  
18 distribute over 1,000 kilograms of marijuana and, obviously,  
19 that's a serious felony offense that's being alleged against  
20 Mr. Davila.

21           I'm also required to consider the weight of the  
22 evidence. This whole circumstance is confusing but it does  
23 appear that there is significant evidence here in that at least  
24 a part of that evidence includes Mr. Davila's own statements  
25 about his intentions and involvement and it appears to be

1 corroborated also by this other lady as well.

2           And so -- but it's not a prediction of the outcome of  
3 the case since in any case as things go forward the  
4 circumstances may look different. The evidence may look  
5 stronger or weaker as the case proceeds. There may be other  
6 aspects that will come to light. So I'm not predicting how  
7 this will turn out. But I am required under the Bail Reform  
8 Act to consider the weight of the evidence at this point and it  
9 appears the evidence of Mr. Davila's involvement in the charge  
10 being alleged is significant, at least at this time.

11           So those are two of the factors. The other factors  
12 related to -- essentially, to the personal circumstances and  
13 characteristics of the defendant. I think Mr. Rodriguez has  
14 pointed out well the positive factors here and there are  
15 positive factors.

16           Mr. Davila is a lifetime resident of the area. He  
17 does have significant and strong family ties here in the area.  
18 It does not appear that -- there's no indication he has ties in  
19 Mexico and so those are positive circumstances.

20           He has children that are here from his previous  
21 marriage. It is a positive circumstance and, you know, a bit  
22 unusual that his ex-wife is actually very willing to assist him  
23 so that's a good circumstance there in terms of his situation  
24 now, and it's a little bit unusual that that would occur but  
25 that's a positive circumstance to consider and provides the

1 possibility of other conditions that might be considered.

2           And so I do note that and I note that the family has  
3 some -- put together some funds to assist in setting a bond  
4 also and so I note that there's that circumstance.

5           The -- on the other hand, there are some  
6 circumstances that are not so positive. I note that Mr. Davila  
7 has worked in the past and in connection with a law office as  
8 well as worked as a bail bondsman. So both those employments,  
9 of course, would otherwise be positive circumstances that he  
10 has that type of prior employment.

11           I think he's not been employed as recently in those  
12 capacities but I'm not -- I guess maybe he was employed at the  
13 time of his arrest perhaps. I should also note that it is a  
14 positive circumstance that Mr. Davila did turn himself in in  
15 connection with this case. I do note that, and that's to his  
16 credit as well.

17           His circumstances -- he worked as a migrant worker  
18 reportedly and then after that worked as -- in a law office in  
19 a bail bondsman role and so I note those things. His income  
20 from his employment was pretty limited and at least in -- as  
21 reported and recently. And so does make it a little confusing  
22 -- he owes more on a truck that was bought this past year than  
23 he apparently makes per month, which is something that's hard  
24 to understand how that circumstance arose.

25           But in any event, the more serious concern or the

1 criminal history that Mr. Davila has -- he has a number of  
2 prior arrests. I will consider or consider the possibility  
3 that at least one of these may have been his father, perhaps,  
4 and also another one might have been dismissed. But still and  
5 so when there is not a conviction, we don't assume that the  
6 person has committed those crimes; but it's still a factor and  
7 a circumstance of fact to consider when a person has been  
8 arrested and charged on a number of occasions with different  
9 crimes in this case. Mr. Davila, in the past, has been charged  
10 with attempt to commit murder way back in 1986; unlawfully  
11 carrying a weapon in 1989. We'll assume that the '92 charge  
12 was his father; but in 1993, there was assault in connection  
13 with a family violence and criminal trespass. In 2005, another  
14 assault. All those were -- did not result in convictions but  
15 the fact of so many arrests on those types of charges is a  
16 circumstance to take into account -- not on the same level as a  
17 conviction, again, but it is a circumstance.

18 More troubling is he does have this pending charge --  
19 aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Now, I do note that  
20 that actually occurred after the alleged offense in this case  
21 so it's not a matter of him committing the current offense  
22 while he was on release from that prior case.

23 But I do note the nature of that prior case is  
24 troubling, that the type of charge that's being alleged in  
25 connection with that is, obviously, a very serious one also --



1 felony charge that's being alleged there and he's facing the  
2 felony charge in this case.

3 And looking at all of the circumstances, also I note  
4 that under federal law, there's this presumption that applies.  
5 I do find the presumption has been overcome with regard to the  
6 risk of flight in Mr. Davila's circumstances and I agree with,  
7 I think, Mr. Rodriguez as well as if Mr. Leonard or whoever  
8 said that and I think Mr. Leupold has acknowledged this as  
9 well, that the risk of flight has not been the main concern.

10 The Court is also required to determine that, you  
11 know, conditions of release would assure the safety to the  
12 community and it is presumed that a person is a danger to the  
13 community if they are charged and probable cause is found with  
14 regard to a drug-related charge. This case, the type of  
15 allegation is involving a large amount of drugs and also  
16 allegedly involved an ongoing type of a enterprise allegedly  
17 that was going on.

18 So it is the type of circumstances and type of charge  
19 and type of ongoing activity that Congress particularly was  
20 concerned about as reflected in legislative history, the Bail  
21 Reform Act.

22 So the presumption there, even as to the risk of  
23 dangerousness, it's not a huge burden to overcome but even  
24 where it is overcome it remains as a factor. I find,  
25 ultimately, that there should be an order of detention as to

1 Mr. Davila based on the dangerousness to the community that's  
2 -- he has these two felony charges that are pending now and the  
3 circumstances of the alleged offense in this case is such that  
4 combined with the other -- all the other circumstances here, I  
5 do find that the conditions would not reasonably assure the  
6 safety of the community.

7 If there is any new information or material change in  
8 circumstances or something -- this is a close case in my view  
9 and because, Mr. Davila, there are positive factors here to be  
10 sure and especially with his ties and so forth -- but given  
11 this other part of it, I do find ultimately that by clear and  
12 convincing evidence that there are not conditions that would  
13 reasonably assure the safety of the community.

14 But, again, if there is something new or material to  
15 -- materially different that we could look at, I'd be willing  
16 to consider that further. But I'm going to go ahead and enter  
17 that order at this time.

18 Was there anything else that we ought to take up in  
19 Mr. Davila's case here today? Mr. Rodriguez, did you have  
20 anything else in this case?

21 **MR. RODRIGUEZ:** No, your Honor. Not at this time.

22 **THE COURT:** Okay. Thank you. You-all can be excused  
23 then. Thank you.

24 **(This proceeding was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.)**

25

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Toni Hudson", is written above a horizontal line.

Signed

March 28, 2013

Dated

*TONI HUDSON, TRANSCRIBER*